

By: Miles

S.B. No. 508

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a statewide online education and career advising tool and the establishment of a grant program to reimburse private employers for paid internships provided to certain public school students in career and technology education programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0092 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0092. ONLINE EDUCATION AND CAREER ADVISING TOOL.

(a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Subject to the availability of federal funding for this purpose, the agency shall develop and implement a statewide online education and career advising tool to assist children in making informed, meaningful, and attainable postsecondary and career plans.

(c) The online education and career advising tool must include:

(1) an individualized career pathway generator that assists a child in selecting a career and identifying the secondary and postsecondary courses the child should take to advance toward that career; and

(2) information regarding:

1 (A) any local, regional, or statewide
2 articulation agreements regarding dual credit programs or the
3 transfer of course credit between institutions of higher education;

4 (B) the postsecondary and career options
5 associated with each endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1),
6 including the dual credit courses related to each endorsement that
7 apply toward a certificate or degree program at an institution of
8 higher education;

9 (C) any stackable degree programs provided by an
10 institution of higher education through which a student may obtain
11 a series of credentials as the student progresses through the
12 program;

13 (D) existing and anticipated employment
14 opportunities statewide and in a child's community, aligned to
15 state and regional workforce needs;

16 (E) anticipated earnings in various careers;

17 (F) local, regional, and statewide career
18 training and certification programs, including the requirements,
19 costs, and available options for those programs; and

20 (G) the time and cost required for and other
21 expenses related to various postsecondary and career options.

22 (d) In developing and implementing the online education and
23 career advising tool, the agency shall consult with the Texas
24 Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce
25 Commission. On request by the agency, the coordinating board and
26 the commission shall provide to the agency any data maintained by
27 the coordinating board or commission that is necessary to develop

1 the tool.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 29.194 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 29.194. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PAID INTERNSHIPS. (a) To
5 encourage private entities to participate in providing career and
6 technology education to assist public school students in developing
7 the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for a broad range
8 of career opportunities, the commissioner shall establish a
9 competitive grant program under which grants are awarded to school
10 districts and open-enrollment charter schools for the
11 reimbursement of private entities for all or part of the cost of
12 providing a paid internship or similar program to a student
13 participating in a career and technology education program in the
14 district or school.

15 (b) In awarding grants under this section, the commissioner
16 shall give preference to school districts and open-enrollment
17 charter schools that, as determined by the commissioner:

18 (1) have a high percentage of students who fail to
19 perform satisfactorily on relevant state assessments; and

20 (2) serve economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

21 (c) To be eligible to receive reimbursement under the grant
22 program, a paid internship or similar program must:

23 (1) satisfy a curriculum requirement for an
24 endorsement adopted by rule under Section 28.025(c-1), or qualify
25 as a dual credit course; and

26 (2) pay the student at least the minimum wage required
27 by law.

1 (d) The total amount of grants awarded under this section
2 may not exceed \$5 million in a state fiscal biennium. A grant
3 awarded to a school district or open-enrollment charter school may
4 not exceed the lesser of:

5 (1) \$1 million in a state fiscal biennium; or
6 (2) an amount determined by the commissioner not to
7 exceed \$2,500 for each participating student enrolled in the
8 district or school in the school year in which the grant is awarded.

9 (e) A grant awarded to a school district or open-enrollment
10 charter school may only be used to reimburse a private entity for
11 all or part of the cost of providing an eligible paid internship or
12 similar program to a student participating in a career and
13 technology education program in the district or school. A private
14 entity may not receive reimbursement under this section for
15 providing a paid internship or similar program to a student who is
16 related to the owner of the entity within the third degree of
17 consanguinity as determined under Subchapter B, Chapter 573,
18 Government Code.

19 (f) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
20 the commissioner, in cooperation with the Texas Workforce
21 Commission, shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
22 and the legislature a report on the effectiveness of the grant
23 program in creating jobs. The report must include, to the extent
24 available:

25 (1) the total number of paid internships or similar
26 programs for which a private entity received reimbursement through
27 a grant awarded under this section and the total amount of money

1 reimbursed for those internships or programs through a grant;

2 (2) the total number of students who completed a paid
3 internship or similar program described by Subdivision (1) and were
4 subsequently hired for a permanent job in this state by the private
5 entity that offered the internship or program;

6 (3) for the permanent jobs described by Subdivision
7 (2):

8 (A) the median wage of those jobs;

9 (B) the North American Industry Classification
10 System classification of each of those jobs; and

11 (C) the number of those jobs that provide health
12 benefits coverage;

13 (4) the number of private entities that offered a paid
14 internship or similar program described by Subdivision (1) that are
15 historically underutilized businesses, as defined by Section
16 [2161.001](#), Government Code, and the total amount of money reimbursed
17 through a grant awarded under the grant program for the internship
18 or program;

19 (5) demographic information on students participating
20 in paid internships or similar programs described by Subdivision
21 (1), including the school districts or open-enrollment charter
22 schools in which the students are enrolled, to the extent allowed
23 under state and federal law; and

24 (6) an assessment of the number of eligible paid
25 internships or similar programs that would not have been offered in
26 the absence of a reimbursement provided through a grant and the
27 total number of students who completed those internships or

1 programs, including for each school year in which grants are
2 awarded, an estimate of the number of public high school students of
3 legal working age who were employed in this state for any period of
4 time during that school year outside of a paid internship or similar
5 program described by Subdivision (1).

6 (g) The commissioner, in consultation with the Texas
7 Workforce Commission, shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
8 this section.

9 SECTION 3. Section 42.005, Education Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (g-2) to read as follows:

11 (g-2) The time during which a student participates in a paid
12 internship or similar program that is funded in whole or in part
13 through a grant awarded under the grant program established by
14 Section 29.194 shall be counted as part of the minimum number of
15 instructional hours required for a student to be considered a
16 full-time student in average daily attendance for purposes of this
17 section.

18 SECTION 4. Section 29.194, Education Code, as added by this
19 Act, applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.